

Washington State Institute for Public Policy

Benefit-Cost Results

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical manual](#).

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

Child Welfare

Program name	Date of last literature review	Total benefits	Taxpayer benefits	Non-taxpayer benefits	Costs	Benefits minus costs (net present value)	Benefit to cost ratio	Odds of a positive net present value
Nurse Family Partnership for low-income families	Apr. 2012	\$26,743	\$9,463	\$17,281	(\$9,788)	\$16,956	\$2.73	76 %
Intensive family preservation services (Homebuilders(c))	Apr. 2012	\$15,073	\$8,768	\$6,304	(\$3,354)	\$11,718	\$4.50	100 %
Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) for families in the child welfare system	Apr. 2012	\$11,626	\$2,814	\$8,812	(\$1,582)	\$10,044	\$7.36	100 %
Subsidized guardianship (Title IV-E waivers)	Apr. 2012	\$3,507	\$437	\$3,070	\$4,083	\$7,590	n/a	100 %
SafeCare	Apr. 2012	\$2,289	\$542	\$1,747	(\$177)	\$2,112	\$13.06	98 %
Alternative response	Apr. 2012	\$1,436	\$345	\$1,091	(\$98)	\$1,338	\$14.70	100 %
Triple P Positive Parenting Program (All levels)	Apr. 2012	\$1,272	\$375	\$897	(\$146)	\$1,127	\$8.80	100 %
Flexible funding (Title IV-E waivers)	Apr. 2012	\$249	\$71	\$179	\$0	\$249	n/a	94 %
Parents as Teachers	Apr. 2012	\$2,825	\$1,128	\$1,698	(\$4,319)	(\$1,494)	\$0.66	36 %
Healthy Families America	Apr. 2012	\$3,192	\$2,433	\$759	(\$4,698)	(\$1,506)	\$0.68	47 %
Other home visiting programs for at-risk mothers and children	Apr. 2012	\$2,576	\$1,285	\$1,291	(\$5,709)	(\$3,133)	\$0.45	26 %
Parent Child Home Program	Apr. 2012	\$1,486	\$1,087	\$400	(\$5,604)	(\$4,118)	\$0.27	26 %
Other family preservation services (non-Homebuilders®)	Apr. 2012	(\$1,954)	(\$100)	(\$1,854)	(\$3,099)	(\$5,053)	(\$0.63)	0 %

Other Child Welfare topics reviewed; benefit-cost results not yet available:

Program name	Date of last literature review	Notes
Family Team Decision Making	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Fostering Healthy Futures	Jun. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Multisystemic Therapy (MST) for child abuse and neglect	Jun. 2013	Click for meta-analytic results
Structured Decision Making Risk Assessment	Apr. 2012	Click for meta-analytic results
Family Search and Engagement	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Functional Family Therapy (FFT) for children in the child welfare system	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Kaleidoscope Play and Learn	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Parent Mentor Program	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Parents and Children Together (PACT)	Jun. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Parents for Parents	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Pathway to Reunification	Jan. 2013	No rigorous evaluations to date.
Dependency (or Family treatment) drug courts	Jul. 2008	See previous WSIPP publication for past findings.
Circle of Security	Jan. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
Parent Child Assistance Program	Jan. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
Partners with Families and Children	Jan. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.
Project KEEP	Apr. 2012	Too few rigorous evaluations.
Promoting First Relationships	Jan. 2013	Too few rigorous evaluations.

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The Washington State Legislature created the Washington State Institute for Public Policy in 1983. A board of Directors-representing the legislature, the governor, and public universities-governs WSIPP and guides the development of all activities. WSIPP's mission is to carry out practical research, at legislative direction, on issues of importance to Washington State.